

I CLAIM:

1 1. A modifier selectively to vary an observed property of
2 an observable surface, said surface overlaying a substrate, said
3 modifier comprising:

4 a Peltier effect thermoelectric cell having a first and
5 a second cell surface, the temperature of said cell surfaces
6 being selectively variable as the consequence of an electrical
7 control current applied to said cell; and

8 a thermally-responsive layer responsive to the
9 temperature of one of said cell surfaces, said thermally
10 responsive layer being so disposed and arranged as to constitute
11 the observed surface, the response of said thermally-responsive
12 layer being to modify an inherent property of its material.

1 2. A modifier according to claim 1 in which said
2 modification is selective by a user in response to a requirement
3 for modification perceived by the user.

1 3. A modifier according to claim 1 in which the modified
2 observed property is color or temperature.

1 4. A modifier according to claim 1 in which said
2 modification is adaptively made in response to a signal received
3 from another source.

1 5. A modifier according to claim 2 in which said modified
2 observed property is temperature or radar frequency.

1 6. A modifier according to claim 1 in which a plurality of
2 said Peltier cells occupy a substantial area of said observable
3 surface.

1 7. A modifier according to claim 1 in which said
2 observable surface is spaced from a source of heat which is to be
3 hidden.

1 8. A modifier according to claim 5 in which a control
2 responsive to a received radar frequency causes selective
3 modification to said thermally-responsive layer.

1 9. A modifier according to claim 8 in which said
2 thermally-responsive layer includes fibers of carbon, copper or
3 silver.